

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6069

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAMA

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TAGS: PFOR, BA

SUBJ: BAHRANI PRIME MINISTER PRESS INTERVIEW

1. KUWAITI REPORTER AHMED JARALLAH INTERVIEWED BAHRAINI PRIMIN KHALIFAH BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFAH IN BAHREIN (DATE NOT STATED). BOTH AL SIYASAH AND KUWAIT TIMES CARRY INTERVIEW AUGUST 25, FROM WHICH WE SUMMARIZE BELOW MAIN REGIONAL AND POLITICAL POINTS.

A. FUTURE OF BAHRAINI NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. PRI MIN SAID "RETURN OF PARLIAMENTARY LIFE IS UNDER STUDY AND I CANNOT PREDICT WHEN IT WILL RETURN" BUT "WHEN STUDY IS COMPLETE IT WILL RETURN." PRIMIN'S ADDITIONAL COMMENTS MADE THE POINT THAT THE FORMER NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WAS TOO "POLITICAL," AND BAD FOR BAHRAINI ECONOMY.

B. LEBANON-LINE TROUBLES IN THSMULF. PRIMIN NOTED THAT THERE ARE "FACTORS" IN GULF DISSIMILAR FROM LEBANON SITUATION, BUT THAT GULF LEADERS MUST KEEP THEIR EYES OPEN AND MAINTAIN "STRICT CONTROL" OR, LIKE LEBANON, THE GULF WILL "SLIP AWAY." AS PART OF "STRICT CONTROL" PRESS MEDIA SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO PLAY UP GULF PROBLEMS. ALSO, GULF GOVERNMENTS MUST NOT OPEN THEIR COUNTRIES AS REFUGES TO "THOSE WHO HAVE NOTHING TO DO BUT SUBVERSION OR DESTRUCTION."

C. GULF COOPERATION. PRIMIN SAID HE THOUGHT THERE SHOULD BE
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HIGH LEVEL, OR HEAD OF GOVERNMENT, MEETINT TO "END REGIONAL

DISPUTES," AND NOTED THAT REGIONAL COOPERATION AMONG GULF STATES IS NOT AS GOOD AS IT SHOULD BE, DESPITE GOOD BILATERAL CONTACTS. HE SUGGESTED GULF COUNTRIES COOPERATE ON "IMPORTING FOODSTUFFS AND AFTER THAT EVERYTHING WILL BE EASY." REGARDING REPORTED SUGGESTION BY SHAH OF IRAN TO SADAT OF EGYPT THAT GULF ALLIANCE BE FORMED, PRIMIN SAID BAHRAIN WOULD GO ALONG WITH WHATEVER IS AGREED UPON BY "BIG" STATES, SINCE IT FAVORS "PROTECTING THE AREA AND KEEPING IT SAFE," BUT THAT BAHRAIN IS AGAINST "BLOCS."

2. INTERVIEW REPORT ALSO CARRIES PRIMIN'S COMMENTS ON INTERNAL BAHRAINI BANKING AND HOUSING MATTERS.
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